

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-7 and 9-20.

Please add the following new claims:

21. (New) A packaging system for shipping and displaying products, the system comprising:

a bottom cap having a rectangular bottom panel and four side panels extending upwardly from the bottom panel, the bottom and side panels defining four corners;

a top cap having a top panel and four side panels extending downwardly from the top panel, the top and side panels defining four corners;

two or more vertically aligned trays disposed between the bottom and top caps, each tray comprising a rectangular bottom panel having a thickness, four side panels extending upwardly from the tray bottom panel, the tray bottom and side panels defining four corners, each tray further comprising openings disposed in and extending through the tray bottom panel and located near each tray corner, each opening being vertically aligned with an opening or openings in the other tray or trays to define a set of vertically aligned tray openings;

outer spacer sleeves located above and below each tray opening and having hollow interiors that communicate with the tray opening, each outer spacer sleeve being aligned with at least one other outer spacer sleeve to define a set of vertically aligned outer spacer sleeves; and

one or more inner support posts extending through each set of vertically aligned outer spacer sleeves and the corresponding set of vertically aligned tray openings to hold the trays and

outer spacer sleeves in position;

wherein each tray and the top cap are supported by outer spacer sleeves, and

wherein the total height of the one or more inner support posts is equal to the total height of the corresponding set of vertically aligned outer spacer sleeves and the total thickness of the bottom panels of the two or more trays, thereby enabling the one or more inner support posts to bear the load of anything stacked on top of the packaging system.

22. (New) The packaging system of claim 21 wherein the number of the one or more inner supports posts is one and the inner support post extends from the bottom cap bottom panel to the top cap top panel.

23. (New) The packaging system of claim 21 wherein the number of the one or more inner supports posts is two or more, each inner support post comprises opposing ends, the inner support posts are aligned end to end, and facing inner support post ends abut each other inside an outer spacer sleeve.

24. (New) The packaging system of claim 21 wherein the outer spacer sleeves have two orthogonal longitudinal sides that abut adjacent side panels of the top and bottom caps for increased stability.

25. (New) The packaging system of claim 21 wherein the outer spacer sleeves and the inner support posts are preformed paper tubes.